HABS No.

Alice McNally House River Street Historic District 83 Pleasant Street San Jose Santa Clara County California

HABS

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey National Park Service Western Region Department of the Interior San Francisco, California 94107

HABS CAL 43-SANJOS 44-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Alice McNally House

HABS No. CA-2357

Location:

83 Pleasant Street, River Street Historic District

San Jose, Santa Clara County, California

UTM Coordinates: 10-597740-4132410

Significance:

The Alice McNally House, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San

Jose.

Description:

The Alice McNally House, a narrow one-story wood framed residence, contains a gabled roof hidden behind a rectangular parapet or "false front." It is clad in channel rustic siding. The house is an excellent example of the Italianate style, adapted here for a structure on a long, narrow parcel. Distinguishing features include: the false front, which culminates in a bracketed cornice; wooden quoins, corniced wood hoods and entryway; and elaborate molding in the entryway.

The main part of the house contains a front bedroom/living room along the north wall, and two additional bedrooms along that wall. The dining and original kitchen areas lie on the south side. The shed-rcofed addition to the rear houses a larger kitchen and bathroom facilities. A roughly built open storage shed stands on the south of the rear access stairs.

History:

This house was built before 1884 and is one of the oldest structures in the district. It was occupied between 1913 and 1919 by Edward Peterson, a marker at the Red Star Laundry. In 1919 Peterson's wife (or widow) Annie lived in the house with Mrs. Alice McNally, a widow, who was listed as the owner on a 1924 block map. Mrs. McNally also owned the land next door on the corner of Pleasant and West St. John which became the site of the Alameda French Bakery. Mrs. McNally continued to live in the house until 1939, when it was occupied by (presumably) her son John McNally. John McNally occupied the house until 1950, when it then became a rental property.

Sources:

California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by

Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.

San Jose City Directories. San Jose 1924 Block Map.

Historian:

Hardlines: Design & Delineation Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland

July - October, 1993

